

Message Text

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ORIGIN AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 EB-11 TRSE-00 STR-08 HEW-08 L-03

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DRAFTED BY AGRI/FAS:WFDOERING;EB/OT/STA:RWINSTANLEY:CLJ

APPROVED BY EB/OT/STA:EWKEMPE

EB/OT/STA:FOSHOUP

TREAS/ATF:LCARLSON

AGRI/FAS:RCTORRENS

STR:HWILLIAMS

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R 282010Z NOV 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS STATE 233377

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE PROHIBITION ON SORBIC ACID IN WINE

REF: TOKYO 13513

1. SUMMARY: SORBIC ACID IS CHARACTERISTICALLY PRESENT IN SWEET AND FRUITY WINES. U.S. REGARDS UP TO 1000 PPM AS COMPLETELY SAFE, ALTHOUGH MOST WINES CONTAINING SORBIC ACID ARE IN 100-200 RANGE. JAPANESE PROHIBITION EXCLUDES IMPORTATION OF MANY WINES AND IS UNNECESSARILY STRICT FROM HEALTH PROTECTION STANDPOINT. END SUMMARY.

2. UNDER REGULATIONS ISSUED BY BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS, DEPT. OF TREASURY, WITH CONCURRENCE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, THE PERMITTED MAXIMUM SORBIC ACID CONTENT OF WINE IS 1000 PPM. SORBIC ACID IS A CHARACTERISTIC COMPONENT OF SWEET AND FRUITY WINES, INCLUDING THE SO-CALLED POP WINES, AND ITS PRESENCE IN AMOUNTS BELOW THE PRESCRIBED LIMIT IS COMPLETELY HARMLESS.

3. IN ACTUAL PRACTICE, SORBIC ACID CONTENT OF AMERICAN UNCLASSIFIED

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TABLE WINES IS MUCH LESS. ACCORDING TO PROF. HAROLD J.

BERG, CHAIRMAN OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VITICULTURE AND ENOLOGY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT DAVIS, THE ACTUAL CONTENT WHERE PRESENT IS GENERALLY IN THE 100-200 PPM RANGE. IN RARE CASES IT CAN REACH 400 PPM.

4. YOU MAY INFORM JAPANESE AUTHORITIES OF FOREGOING.

5. WE AGREE JAPANESE PROHIBITION OF SORBIC ACID IS UNNECESSARILY STRICT AND SHOULD BE RELAXED TO PERMIT LIMITS APPROXIMATING THOSE IN THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER WINE CONSUMING COUNTRIES. CONTINUED ENFORCEMENT OF PROHIBITION WOULD EXCLUDE IMPORTATION OF MOST WHITE AND ROSE WINES AND MANY RED WINES. AT APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY, PLEASE PROVIDE CURRENT READING ON JAPANESE OFFICIAL THINKING AND INTENTIONS.

6. BEGIN FYI: THROUGH CALIFORNIA WINE INSTITUTE WE ARE SEEKING TO OBTAIN ACTUAL TEST DATA ON INDIVIDUAL WINES OF PRODUCERS INTERESTED IN JAPANESE MARKET. WILL ADVISE OUTCOME. END FYI. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FRUIT, IMPORTS, WINES, FOOD ADDITIVES, FOOD & DRUG REGULATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
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Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
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